



When I was sixteen I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell. In one of his books he wrote, 'We should never leave this world not having the people that we love know that we love them.' Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. We do not make regular declarations of our love accompanied by long hugs. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge.

At the time my sister was working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and my brother was working in another city, so I wrote them both letters and told them I loved them. I never heard a word back.

That left my mother. I stayed in one Saturday night and, with my heart pumping and my tummy churning, I approached my mother after dinner while she was watching the news on the TV. 'Mum, I have something very important to tell you.' My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before and I need to say it tonight.' As she slowly turned off the TV and faced me, I could tell there were now two hearts pumping and two tummies churning in that room!

I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.' And such was her relief that my mother replied. 'I hope so!' And quickly turned the TV back on. There were no hugs and kisses, no violins playing or statements about how long Mum had been waiting to hear one of us talk of our love for her. As I walked back to my room I thought I would never take John Powell's advice again!

My brother and sister wrote to my mother asking her what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase I was going through. I hope it is a phase I never get over!

Today's feast of the Holy Family is about faithful love that looks after the most important people in our lives. We all know that fights and bitterness can wreck families for generations. If today's feast means anything it is not about romanticising how difficult family life can be these days. It is about naming that forgiveness, compassion and kindness are the blocks upon which Christian family life is built. Without these virtues family life crumbles.

The best way to honour today's feast is to do something about the faithful love it celebrates. I have often been with people on their deathbed when they speak about things they have left undone and would have liked to have achieved in their life. No one ever says that they wish they had spent more time at work. No one says they wish they had made more money. But many people say that they wish they had told those that they love, that they loved them. We shouldn't assume that our families know about our love for them if we haven't said it. If we show it, we should be able to say it. So write a letter, make a call or go and see them, but let's pluck up our courage and tell our families that we love them. It's too late once we're dead. And the best news is that when we profess our love to our families we'll see that today's celebration is in fact a moveable feast.

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
FROM THE 25TH DECEMBER 2020 AND RE OPEN ON THE 4TH JANUARY 2021**

**St. Joseph the Worker Church**

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

**Sunday Masses**

7:00am & 8:30am

**(Please book on line)**

**Weekday Masses**

Monday 28th Dec. 9.00am

Wednesday 30th Dec. 7:00am

**(No need to book for weekday Mass)**

**Gold Coast University Hospital**

No Mass and Rosary

**Guardian Angels' Church**

99 Scarborough St., Southport

**Saturday & Sunday Masses**

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30 & 6.00pm

Sunday 7:00am & 9:00am

**(Please book on line)**

**Prayers & Adoration**

Wednesday 12.00noon -1.00pm

**Weekday Mass**

**Friday 1st Jan. 2021- 12:30pm**

**(No need to book for weekday Mass)**

**Mary Immaculate Church**

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

**Saturday & Sunday Masses**

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9:00am & 5.30pm

**(Please book on line)**

**Weekday Masses**

Tuesday 9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

**No need to book for weekday Mass**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**By Appointment**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city,  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby,  
in a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable,  
and His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all  
His wondrous childhood  
day by day like us he grew.  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew,  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.  
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### GLORIA (SUNG)

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us  
You take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
You are seated at the right hand  
of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### Sing to the Mountains

#### **Refrain:**

***Sing to the mountains,  
sing to the sea,  
raise your voices, lift your hearts.  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Let all the earth rejoice.***

I will give thanks to you, my Lord,  
you have answered my plea.  
You have saved my soul from death, you  
are my strength and my song. **R**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. **R**

This is the day that the Lord has made,  
let us be glad and rejoice.  
He has turned all death to life,  
sing of the glory of God. **R**  
Bob Dufford ©1975 OCP

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection you  
have set us free.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia!***

You are the Christ everlasting,  
born for us all of a virgin.  
You have conquered death,  
opened heaven to all believers.

***Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia!***

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## COMMUNION PROCESSION

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light,  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars,  
together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given,  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord, Emmanuel.

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## REFLECTION HYMN

### Born in the Night

Born in the night, Mary's child,  
a long way from your home,  
coming in need, Mary's child, born in  
a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's child, your  
face lights up our way.  
Light of the world, Mary's child, dawn  
on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's child, you  
tell us God is good.

Prove it is true, Mary's child,  
go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's child, you're  
coming soon to reign.  
King of the earth, Mary's child, walk in our  
streets again.

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## RECESSIONAL

### Let Heaven Rejoice

#### **Refrain:**

***Let heaven rejoice  
and earth be glad,  
let all creation sing.  
Let children proclaim  
through every land,  
"Hosanna to our king."***

Sound the trumpet in to the night,  
the day of the Lord is near.  
Wake his people, lift your voice,  
proclaim it to the world. **R**

Rise in splendour,  
shake off your sleep,  
put on your robes of joy,  
and in the morning you shall see  
the glory of the Lord. **R**

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### (Sung)

### Holy God We Praise thy Name

Holy God, we praise thy name!  
Lord of all, we bow before thee;  
all on earth thy sceptre claim,  
all in heaven above adore thee;  
infinite thy vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.

Hark the loud celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord!

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name thee,  
while in essence only One,  
undivided God we claim thee,  
and adoring bend the knee,  
while we own the mystery.

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